

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-22 were previously pending in the application. New claims 23 and 24 are added. Therefore, claims 1-24 are presented for consideration.

Claims 1-22 are amended to address the claim objection noted in the Official Action. Claims 9-13 and 22 are amended to address the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejections noted in the Official Action.

Claims 1-7 and 14-20 are rejected as anticipated by INOUE 5,395,111.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested because the reference does not disclose or suggest a sub display unit located orthogonally behind the main display units as recited in claim 1 of the present application.

By way of example, Figure 7 in conjunction with page 9, lines 3-6 of the present application disclose that sub reel 24 (sub display unit) is disposed behind the first, second and third displays 21, 22 and 23 such that the axial direction thereof crosses the first, second and third display parts 21a, 22a and 23a. Accordingly, the sub display unit is located orthogonally behind the main display units.

Main display unit 5a and sub display 5b of INOUE are co-axial such that the reel 5b is not located orthogonally behind reel 5a.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection as to claim 1 are respectfully requested. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over INOUE.

Claim 14 provides a sub display unit rotating about a second axis different from a first axis (of the main display units) and located behind the main display units. As noted in the embodiment above, the axis of the sub display unit crosses the axis of the main display units. Accordingly, the sub display unit and the main display units rotate about different axes. As seen from the abstract and as indicated in the claims of INOUE, the rotatable reels of INOUE are co-axial.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection as to claim 14 should be withdrawn. Claims 15-20 depend from claim 14 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over INOUE.

Claims 9-14 and 22 are rejected as anticipated by MALAVAZOS et al. 6,105,962. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 provides plural display plates arranged concentrically. Each of the display plates has a display part with at least one symbol area in which a symbol is provided and at least one first transparent area. The display parts are ring-shaped with different diameters. A sub display unit is located behind the display plates for displaying symbols in motion and/or a static symbol behind the at least one first transparent area.

By way of example, Figure 10 of the present application shows plural display plates 21, 22, 23 arranged concentrically such that display plate 21 is surrounded by display plate 22 which in turn is surrounded by display plate 23. Each of the display plates has a display part 21a, 22a and 23a, respectively. As seen in Figure 10, each of the display parts has at least one symbol area showing numeral 1 in the upper right-hand section of Figure 10, for example. The display part also has a transparent area 31. The display parts 21a, 22a and 23a are ring-shaped with varying diameters.

As seen in Figure 13 of the present application, for example, the sub display unit 24 is located behind the display plates 21a, 22a and 23a. The sub display unit in the embodiment of Figure 13 is displaying static symbol "S" surrounded by arrows. This symbol is indicated by reference numeral 34. As seen in Figure 13, reference numeral 34 is within the first transparent area 31.

The annular areas 17 of MALAVAZOS et al. have no overlap such that the symbols in the annular areas 17 are readily discernible as seen in Figure 1 of MALAVAZOS et al. The transparent areas of MALAVAZOS et al. are outside of these annular areas 17 so that the sub display unit of MALAVAZOS et al., indicated as reference numeral 15 in the Official Action, can be seen through a light transmissive area. However, the light transmissive area of MALAVAZOS et al. is not part of the ring-shaped display part as required to meet the claim recitations of claim 9. Accordingly, MALAVAZOS et al. do not anticipate claim 9.

Claims 10-13 depend from claim 9 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over MALAVAZOS et al.

Claim 14 provides a sub display unit rotating about a second axis different from a first axis and located behind the main display units. The first axis is the axis of rotation of the plural main display units.

As set forth above, the embodiment on page 9, lines 3-6 of the present application, disclose that the sub reel 24 is disposed behind the first, second and third displays 21, 22 and 23 such that the axial direction thereof crosses the first, second and third display parts 21a, 22a and 23a.

The abstract and column 3, lines 27-33 of MALAVAZOS et al. disclose that rotatable disks 13, 14 and 15 (15 being

indicated in the Official Action as a sub display unit) turn about a common axis of rotation 16. Therefore, each of the rotatable elements in MALAVAZOS et al. rotates about the same axis, not that the sub display rotates about a second axis different from the first axis as recited in claim 14.

Claim 22 depends from claim 14 and further defines the invention and is also believed patentable over MALAVAZOS et al.

Claims 8 and 21 are rejected as unpatentable over INOUE 5,395,111 in view of INOUE 5,752,881. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

INOUE '111 is only cited for the teaching of a sub display unit being a liquid crystal display unit. INOUE does not disclose or suggest what is recited in claims 1 and 14. Specifically, INOUE '111 teaches inner and outer co-axial overlying reels, not a sub display unit located orthogonally behind the main display units as recited in claim 1 or a sub display unit rotating about a second axis different from a first axis as recited in claim 14. As set forth above, INOUE '881 does not disclose or suggest what is recited in claims 1 and 14. Since claims 8 and 21 depend from claims 1 and 14, respectively, and further define the invention, the proposed combination of references would not render obvious claims 8 and 21.

New claim 23 depends from claim 9 and further defines the invention. Claim 23 provides that the sub display unit has

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an axis of rotation perpendicular to an axis of rotation of the plural plates. Figure 12 and page 9, lines 3-6 provide support for new claim 23.

New claim 24 also depends from claim 9 and further defines the invention and provides that each of the at least one first transparent area is radially alignable when the winning judging section judges the win or the loss in accordance with the displayed symbol of the sub display unit. Figure 12 also provides support for this feature wherein each of the transparent areas 31 are radially aligned along axis 90. None of the prior art references teaches or suggests this feature.

Accordingly, new claims 23 and 24 are believed to avoid the rejections under §102 and §103 and are believed allowable over the art of record.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee of \$18 for the two extra dependent claims added herewith to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

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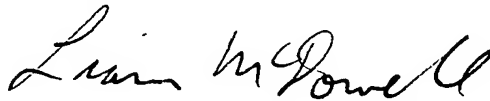
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16 or under 37 C.F.R.\$1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

LM/lrs